AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.   (previously presented) A method for integrated audit and configuration comprising the computer-implemented steps of:

      receiving a request from a user to analyze first configuration information with a second set of configuration information;

      receiving the first configuration information;

      analyzing one or more parameters of the first configuration information with the second set of configuration information to result in creating and storing comparison information;

      displaying the comparison information including displaying parameters of the first configuration that do not conform with the parameters of the second configuration;

      choosing one or more action mechanisms to display to the user for each of the one or more parameters based on the comparison information including the non-conforming parameters;

      enabling the user to select a displayed action mechanism to perform one or more actions associated with the one or more action mechanisms;

      based on the user's selection, generating instructions and applying changes to the first configuration information;

      wherein the one or more action mechanisms comprise at least one from a group consisting of toggle actions, wizard actions, and lockdown actions; wherein each of the one or more action mechanisms has separate properties and characteristics and performs separate changes to the first configuration file.

2.   (original) The method of Claim 1, where the second set of configuration information comprises a set of one or more parameter values; and where the step of analyzing one or more

parameters of the first confirmation information comprises comparing the values of the one or more parameters in the first configuration information with corresponding parameter values from the set of one or more parameter values from the second set of configuration information.

3.   (original) The method of Claim 1, where the second set of configuration information comprises a set of one or more rules; and where the step of analyzing one or more parameters of the first confirmation information comprises analyzing the one or more parameters of the first configuration information with respect to the set of one or more rules.

4.   (canceled)

5.   (original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
        receiving a second request from the user to perform one action of the one or more
                actions; and
        performing the one action.

6.   (original) The method of Claim 5, where the second request is one of one or more requests to perform actions, and where the method further comprises the step of performing the one or more corresponding actions based on the one or more requests to perform actions, where performing the one or more corresponding actions comprises constructing new configuration information based on the first configuration information and each action.

7.   (currently amended) The method of Claim 6, further comprising the steps of:
        checking the new configuration against an object model of acceptable configurations<u>,</u>
                <u>wherein the object model comprises the constraints of each parameter in the</u>
                <u>configuration, the interrelations among those parameters, and how they relate as a</u>
                <u>whole to the device being configured</u>;
        if the changes are not acceptable, displaying a summary of problems.

8.   (original) The method of Claim 6, where the new configuration is the configuration for a configurable system, the configurable system includes one or more configurable devices; and where the method further comprises the steps of:

>   receiving a third request to submit the changes;

>   checking the new configuration information against an object model of acceptable configurations; and

>   if the changes are acceptable, configuring the configurable system.

9.   (original) The method of Claim 1, where the first configuration information comprises the configuration for a configurable system; the configurable system includes one or more configurable devices; and the first configuration information is for each of the one or more configurable devices; and where the step of receiving the first configuration information comprises obtaining the first configuration information for each of the one or more configurable devices.

10.   (original) The method of Claim 1, where the second set of configuration information is one of one or more sets of second configuration information; and where the method further comprises the step of selecting the second set of configuration information based on the request from the user.

11.   (original) The method of Claim 1, where the second set of configuration information is one or one or more sets of second configuration information; and where the method further comprises the step of selecting the second set of configuration information based on one or more sets of configuration information for a device to be configured.

12.   (original) The method of Claim 5, where the one or more actions comprise one or more toggle actions, and the one or more action mechanisms comprise one or more toggle action mechanisms, and where the step of performing the action associated with a particular toggle

action mechanism comprises changing a parameter value associated with the particular toggle action mechanism.

13.   (original) The method of Claim 5, where the one or more actions comprise one or more fix actions, and the one or more action mechanisms comprise one or more fix action mechanisms, and where the step of performing the action associated with the fix action mechanism comprises changing a parameter value associated with a particular fix action mechanism based on a corresponding parameter value in the second set of configuration information.

14.   (original) The method of Claim 5, where the one or more actions comprise one or more user input actions, and the one or more action mechanisms comprise one or more user input action mechanisms, and where the step of performing the action associated with a particular user input action mechanism comprises the steps of:

    obtaining user input for a parameter value associated with the particular user input action
        mechanism; and

    changing the parameter value associated with the particular user input action mechanism
        based on the user input.

15.   (original) The method of Claim 5, where the one or more actions comprise one or more wizard actions, and the one or more action mechanisms comprise one or more wizard action mechanisms, and where the step of performing the action associated with a particular wizard action mechanism comprises the step of running a wizard associated with the particular wizard action mechanism.

16.   (previously presented) A method for integrated audit and configuration comprising the steps of:

receiving a request from a user to analyze first configuration information with a second

set of configuration information;

obtaining the first configuration information;

receiving the first configuration information;

analyzing one or more parameters of the first configuration information with the second

set of configuration information to result in creating and storing comparison

information, where the second set of configuration information comprises a set of

one or more rules; and where the step of analyzing one or more parameters of the

first confirmation information comprises analyzing the one or more parameters of

the first configuration information with respect to the set of one or more rules;

displaying the comparison information including displaying parameters of the first

configuration that do not conform with the parameters of the second

configuration;

choosing one or more action mechanisms to display to the user for each of the one or

more parameters based on the comparison information including the non-

conforming parameters;

enabling the user to select a displayed action mechanism to perform one or more actions

associated with the one or more action mechanisms;

receiving a second request from the user to perform one action of the one or more

actions; and

performing the one action, where performing the action comprises constructing new

configuration information based on the first configuration information and the one

action;

wherein the one or more action mechanisms comprise at least one from a group

consisting of toggle actions, wizard actions, and lockdown actions; wherein each

of the one or more action mechanisms has separate properties and characteristics and performs separate changes to the first configuration file.

17.   (previously presented) A method providing an integrated security audit and security configuration for a network device, comprising the computer-implemented steps of:

receiving a request from a user to analyze first security configuration information with a second set of security configuration information;

receiving the first security configuration information;

analyzing one or more parameters of the first security configuration information with the second set of security configuration information to result in creating and storing comparison information, where the second set of security configuration information comprises a set of one or more rules; and where the step of analyzing one or more parameters of the first confirmation information comprises analyzing the one or more parameters of the first security configuration information with respect to the set of one or more rules;

displaying the comparison information including displaying parameters of the first configuration that do not conform with the parameters of the second configuration;

choosing one or more action mechanisms to display to the user for each of the one or more parameters based on the comparison information including the non-conforming parameters;

enabling the user to select a displayed action mechanism to perform one or more actions associated with the one or more action mechanisms;

receiving a second request from the user to perform one action of the one or more actions; and

performing the one action, where performing the action comprises constructing new

security configuration information based on the first security configuration

information and the one action;

wherein the one or more action mechanisms comprise at least one from a group

consisting of toggle actions, wizard actions, and lockdown actions; wherein each

of the one or more action mechanisms has separate properties and characteristics

and performs separate changes to the first configuration file.

18. (previously presented) A machine-readable storage medium storing one or more

sequences of instructions for integrated audit and configuration, which instructions, when

executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to carry out the steps of:

receiving a request from a user to analyze first configuration information with a second

set of configuration information;

receiving the first configuration information;

analyzing one or more parameters of the first configuration information with the second

set of configuration information to result in creating and storing comparison

information;

displaying the comparison information including displaying parameters of the first

configuration that do not conform with the parameters of the second

configuration;

choosing one or more action mechanisms to display to the user for each of the one or

more parameters based on the comparison information including the non-

conforming parameters;

enabling the user to select a displayed action mechanism to perform one or more actions

associated with the one or more action mechanisms;

wherein the one or more action mechanisms comprise at least one from a group

consisting of toggle actions, wizard actions, and lockdown actions; wherein each

of the one or more action mechanisms has separate properties and characteristics and performs separate changes to the first configuration file.

19.   (previously presented) An apparatus for integrated audit and configuration, comprising:

a network interface that is coupled to a data network for receiving one or more packet flows therefrom;

a processor;

one or more stored sequences of instructions which, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to carry out the steps of:

receiving a request from a user to analyze first configuration information with a second set of configuration information;

receiving the first configuration information;

analyzing one or more parameters of the first configuration information with the second set of configuration information to result in creating and storing comparison information;

displaying the comparison information including displaying parameters of the first configuration that do not conform with the parameters of the second configuration;

choosing one or more action mechanisms to display to the user for each of the one or more parameters based on the comparison information including the non-conforming parameters;

enabling the user to select a displayed action mechanism to perform one or more actions associated with the one or more action mechanisms;

wherein the one or more action mechanisms comprise at least one from a group consisting of toggle actions, wizard actions, and lockdown actions; wherein each of the one or more action mechanisms has separate properties and characteristics and performs separate changes to the first configuration file.

20.   (currently amended) An apparatus for integrated audit and configuration, comprising:

<u>one or more processors;</u>

means for receiving a request from a user to analyze first configuration information with a second set of configuration information;

means for receiving the first configuration information;

means for analyzing one or more parameters of the first configuration information with the second set of configuration information to result in creating and storing comparison information;

means for displaying the comparison information including displaying parameters of the first configuration that do not conform with the parameters of the second configuration;

means for choosing one or more action mechanisms to display to the user for each of the one or more parameters based on the comparison information including the non-conforming parameters; and

means for enabling the user to select a displayed action mechanism to perform one or more actions associated with the one or more action mechanisms;

wherein the one or more action mechanisms comprise at least one from a group consisting of toggle actions, wizard actions, and lockdown actions; wherein each of the one or more action mechanisms has separate properties and characteristics and performs separate changes to the first configuration file.

21.   (previously presented) A machine-readable storage medium storing one or more sequences of instructions for integrated audit and configuration, which instructions, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to carry out the steps of:

receiving a request from a user to analyze first configuration information with a second set of configuration information;

obtaining the first configuration information;

receiving the first configuration information;

analyzing one or more parameters of the first configuration information with the second

set of configuration information to result in creating and storing comparison

information, where the second set of configuration information comprises a set of

one or more rules; and where the step of analyzing one or more parameters of the

first confirmation information comprises analyzing the one or more parameters of

the first configuration information with respect to the set of one or more rules;

displaying the comparison information including displaying parameters of the first

configuration that do not conform with the parameters of the second

configuration;

choosing one or more action mechanisms to display to the user for each of the one or

more parameters based on the comparison information including the non-

conforming parameters;

enabling the user to select a displayed action mechanism to perform one or more actions

associated with the one or more action mechanisms;

receiving a second request from the user to perform one action of the one or more

actions; and

performing the one action, where performing the action comprises constructing new

configuration information based on the first configuration information and the one

action;

wherein the one or more action mechanisms comprise at least one from a group

consisting of toggle actions, wizard actions, and lockdown actions; wherein each

of the one or more action mechanisms has separate properties and characteristics

and performs separate changes to the first configuration file.

22.   (previously presented) A machine-readable storage medium storing one or more

sequences of instructions for integrated security audit and security configuration, which

instructions, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to

carry out the steps of:

receiving a request from a user to analyze first security configuration information with a

second set of security configuration information;

receiving the first security configuration information;

analyzing one or more parameters of the first security configuration information with the

second set of security configuration information to result in creating and storing

comparison information, where the second set of security configuration

information comprises a set of one or more rules; and where the step of analyzing

one or more parameters of the first confirmation information comprises analyzing

the one or more parameters of the first security configuration information with

respect to the set of one or more rules;

displaying the comparison information including displaying parameters of the first

configuration that do not conform with the parameters of the second

configuration;

choosing one or more action mechanisms to display to the user for each of the one or

more parameters based on the comparison information including the non-

conforming parameters;

enabling the user to select a displayed action mechanism to perform one or more actions

associated with the one or more action mechanisms;

receiving a second request from the user to perform one action of the one or more

actions; and

performing the one action, where performing the action comprises constructing new

security configuration information based on the first security configuration

information and the one action;

wherein the one or more action mechanisms comprise at least one from a group

consisting of toggle actions, wizard actions, and lockdown actions; wherein each

of the one or more action mechanisms has separate properties and characteristics

and performs separate changes to the first configuration file.

23.   (cancelled)

24.   (new) A method for integrated audit and configuration comprising the computer-
implemented steps of:

receiving a request from a user to analyze first configuration information with a second

set of configuration information;

receiving the first configuration information;

analyzing one or more parameters of the first configuration information with the second

set of configuration information to result in creating and storing comparison

information;

displaying the comparison information including displaying parameters of the first

configuration that do not conform with the parameters of the second

configuration;

checking the new configuration against an object model of acceptable configurations,

wherein the object model comprises the constraints of each parameter in the

configuration, the interrelations among those parameters, and how they relate as a

whole to the device being configured wherein if the changes are not acceptable,

displaying a summary of problems;

choosing one or more action mechanisms to display to the user for each of the one or

more parameters based on the comparison information including the non-

conforming parameters;

enabling the user to select a displayed action mechanism to perform one or more actions

associated with the one or more action mechanisms;

based on the user's selection, generating instructions and applying changes to the first

configuration information;

wherein the one or more action mechanisms comprise at least one from a group

consisting of toggle actions, wizard actions, and lockdown actions; wherein each

of the one or more action mechanisms has separate properties and characteristics

and performs separate changes to the first configuration file.